

Appl. No. 10/693,173
Reply to Office Action dated: August 23, 2005

Docket No.: 1232-5184

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1 and 5-7 have been rejected. Claims 2-4 and 8-17 are objected to but have been indicating as including allowable subject matter. By this paper, rejected claims 1 and 5-7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2 and 8 are amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim Rejections/Objections

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,766,083 to Bona et al. ("Bona"). (Office Action, ¶5-6, pages 2-4.)

Claims 2-4 and 8-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but have been indicated as including allowable subject matter and as being allowable if rewritten. (Office Action, ¶7, page 4.)

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the prior art and pending claims in the stated rejections, and respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections stated herein and reserves the right to address the substance of such rejections in the future as appropriate.

Nonetheless, in order to expedite allowance, rejected claims 1 and 5-7 are herein canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections as to these claims moot.

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Claims 2 and 8 have been amended to be in independent form (i.e., to explicitly recite the limitations of independent claim 1 from which they depended).

Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections and objections are either overcome or otherwise rendered moot and respectfully requests that they be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all rejections having been addressed, as there are no outstanding rejections remaining and only claims 2-4 and 8-14, which Applicant submits are hereby placed in condition for allowance, remain in this application, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary for the filing of this paper. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5184.

If any outstanding issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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